

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LIBREV 02075 281832Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 HA-05 ACDA-12 EB-08

COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 AID-05 PC-01 PM-05 H-01

INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 SY-05 A-01 OPR-02

OC-06 CCO-00 CA-01 SCS-06 /136 W

-----130341 281845Z /46

O R 281630Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1437

INFORUTAVC/AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE 053

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

US MISSION GENEVA 418

USICA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIBREVILLE 2075

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PEPR, GB, DM

SUBJECT: BENINESE SITUATION

REF: LIBREVILLE 2066 AND PREVIOUS

1. BENINESE AT LYCEE DEL'ESTUAIRE CAMP HAVE APPARENTLY BEGUN GROWN RESTLESS AND FRACTIOUS. DURING DAY OF JULY 28, WE HAVE HEARD NUMBER OF RUMORS OF TROUBLE, INCLUDING ONE THAT TROUBLE WAS OF SUCH NATURE THAT LOCAL FRENCH TROOPS WERE CALLED OUT. FROM OUR OWN OBSERVATION, WE JUDGE THAT THERE WAS AT LEAST ONE INCIDENT, NATURE OF WHICH WE DO NOT YET KNOW. EMBOFF, HOWEVER, OBSERVED AT 1500 LOCAL SOME OVERTURNED CARS, PRESENCE OF FIRE TRUCKS, AND HEAVY GABONESE GUARD AT LYCEE. GABONESE POLICE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LIBREV 02075 281832Z

WERE SEARCHING ALL VEHICLES EN ROUTE TO AIRPORT. LYCEE ITSELF, HOWEVER, WAS QUIET. THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE OF FRENCH TROOP PRESENCE, AND WE TEND TREAT THAT RUMOR WITH CONSIDERABLE RESERVE. CALL TO FRENCH EMBASSY ELICITED NO SUGGESTION THAT ANY OF THEIR PEOPLE INVOLVED.

2. MEANWHILE, SUBJECT DISAPPEARED FROM MEDIA MORNING OF

JULY 28, BUT BEHIND SCENES STORIES THAT WE CANNOT VOUCH FOR BEGAN TO SURFACE. FROM THREE SOURCES, WE UNDERSTAND AIR AFRIQUE HAS REFUSED TRANSPORT BENINESE TO COTONOU (ONE OF THEM QUALIFIES REPORT TO SAY "UNLESS COMPANY IS PAID"). ANOTHER REPORTED A "HIGH LEVEL" GABONESE AS HAVING GONE TO LOME, APPARENTLY TO ASK TOGOLESE TO PERMIT BENINESE TO BE SENT THERE AND SEE TO THEIR REPATRIATION FROM LOME TO BENIN. SAME STORY SAID TOGOLESE REFUSED (NOT SURPRISING IF TRUE). THIRD REPORTED VISIT OF SENIOR OFFICIAL OG GOG WHO IS BENINESE AS HAVING GONE TO BENINESE CAMP IF EFFORT PERSUADE SOME OF BENINESE RETURN TO BUSINESS AS USUAL. HE WAS REPORTEDLY HOOTED DOWN.

3. NONETHELESS, IT APPEARS SOME BENINESE MAY BE RETURN-INT TO CITY. LIBREVILLE'S PRINCIPAL BAKERY (OWNED BY PIME MINISTER) WAS PRIMARILY STAFFED BY BENINESE, AND LIBREVILLE SUDDENLY FOUND ITSELF SHORT OF BREAD. INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL COULD OBTAIN NONE FOR FOUR DAYS. BAKERY IS NOW BACK IN BUSINESS WITH FAMILIAR FACES IN ATTENDANCE.

4. COMMENT: IT CLEAR GABONESE HAVE NOT YET FIGURED OUT HOW TO REPATRIATE BENINESE DESPITE REPORTS OF VARIETY OF MINISTERIAL MEETING CALLED TO DISCUSS BENIN PROBLEM. MEANWHILE, NOT SURPRISINGLY, BENINESE ARE GROWING RESTLESS AND MORE INCIDENTS MAY BE IN OFFING. CITY
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LIBREV 02075 281832Z

ITSELF, HOWEVER, IS CALM AND WE HAVE HEARD OF NO FURTHER INCIDENTS EITHER IN CITY OR COUNTRYSIDE IN AT LEAST FOUR DAYS. AS PROBLEMS FOR LIBREVILLE'S ECONOMY (E.G., BAKERY, FISHING INDUSTRY AND SMALL SHOPS BECOME MORE APPARENT, GOG MAY ALREADY BE ENCOURAGING SOME BENINESE TO RETURN TO WORK, ALTHOUGH IT TOO EARLY YET TO REALLY TELL. TIENKEN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPATRIATION, EXPATRIATES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LIBREV02075
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780310-0669
Format: TEL
From: LIBREVILLE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780710/aaaaaicw.tel
Line Count: 101
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c236c06a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 LIBREVILLE 2066
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1844767
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BENINESE SITUATION
TAGS: PINT, PEPR, GB, DM
To: STATE BRAZZAVILLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c236c06a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014